

# VIRGINIA HUD LINES

MARCH 2006

E-Briefs from the Richmond Office of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development  
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## **RIITA-ID**

HUD already given rent assistance to 15,000 families left homeless by Katrina. Now HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson has okayed assistance to those displaced by Rita. Those who lived in Presidentially-declared disaster areas and were public housing residents, holding Section 8 vouchers, living in HUD-assisted multi-family complexes or homeless prior to landfall may use HUD's Disaster Voucher Program help **anywhere in the country** until September, 2007. He also has extended the moratorium on foreclosures of FHA mortgages in the stricken area until June 30, 2006. .

## **!!! e-Flash !!!**

HUD Mortgagee Letter 2006-04 at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mltrmenu.cfm> eliminates closing cost restrictions on FHA insured mortgages endorsed on or after January 27, 2006.

## **e-READY OR NOT**

Soon, very soon, a notice in The Federal Register will start HUD's 2006 HUD SuperNOFA funding competition. And you'd better be e-ready to compete. For more, consult the grants.gov checklist at <http://www.grants.gov/RegistrationChecklist>

## **YOU'RE INVITED**

Fair housing is not an option. It's the law. Learn what's being done – and what you can do – to insure Fair Housing Act protection is enjoyed by all at 2006 Fair Housing Summit, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Richmond Convention Center. For more, contact Toni Schmiegelow at 800/842-2610, ext. 3787, or [toni\\_schmiegelow@hud.gov](mailto:toni_schmiegelow@hud.gov) Summit's hosted by Virginia Office of Fair Housing and HUD Richmond.

## **SPARC SPARK!**

The Virginia Housing Development Authority has allocated \$210 million in low-interest financing to some 60 non-profits statewide to produce affordable housing under Round V of its Sparking Partnerships & Revitalizing Communities (SPARC) program. Saying its partners have “direct insight into the unmet needs of their communities,” VHDA's Don Ritenour said that SPARC supports “customized” affordable housing proposals normally “not available through private lenders” or VHDA. Backed by mortgage revenue bonds, SPARC allocations are loaned at from one to one-half a point below VHDA's first-time homebuyer rate. The allocations should produce 1,400 single-family units.

A list of Round V winners is posted at [www.vhda.com/vhda\\_com/template\\_a.asp?VHDA\\_COM\\_PAGE\\_NAME=SPARCHomepage](http://www.vhda.com/vhda_com/template_a.asp?VHDA_COM_PAGE_NAME=SPARCHomepage)

Since its started five years ago, the SPARC single family has allocated almost \$500 million in financing.

## **BRIEF BRIEFS**

Governor Kaine and Virginia Alliance of Information & Referral Systems launches 2-1-1 system for speedier access to housing, health and human services. . IRS issues guidelines at [http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0\\_id=154657.00.html](http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0_id=154657.00.html) on energy credits homeowners can claim for energy efficiency upgrades. . DHCD posts application materials - due April 7<sup>th</sup> – for Homeless Intervention and Combined Homeless programs at [http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/ADMIN/Whats\\_new.htm](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/ADMIN/Whats_new.htm) . Rachel Flynn named Richmond Director of Community Planning & Development after 7 years as same in Lynchburg. . HUD Strategic Plan for 2006 through 2011 on-line for comment at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) until March 18<sup>th</sup> . February 9<sup>th</sup> *Federal Register* issues final rule streamlining Consolidated Plan process. . Accomack-Norhampton Housing Authority starts work on 92-unit, \$7 million complex for elderly in Parksley. . EPA confers Energy Star status on 167 Virginia buildings. . Association for Preservation of Virginia Antiquities seeks nominations for 2006 Most Endangered Historic Sites. . *Register Bee* says Danville and VHDA launch campaign to reach 60 percent homeownership in Westmoreland area. . Blacksburg hires Matt Hanratty to run housing programs. . Gary Wesson named Executive Director of Danville Redevelopment & Housing. . Four members of Employment Resources Youthbuild program in Fredericksburg spend week rebuilding Katrina-damaged homes in Gulfport. . HHS sets April 6<sup>th</sup> as deadline for Treatment for Homeless grants and April 10<sup>th</sup> for Drug Free Communities grants. . Rappahannock-Rapidan PDC issues draft workforce housing plan. . Wachovia and Richmond Redevelopment & Housing form partnership to offer financial literacy courses. . Lynchburg one of 11 finalists for 2006 Great American Main Street Award. . Roanoke Mayor Harris draws 14-year veteran as winner of City's 2nd “Officer at Home” house. . Appalachian Regional Commission holds Community Approaches to Substance Abuse summit in Johnson City, Tennessee, March 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. . VSBN hosts EarthCraft training March 29<sup>th</sup> in Richmond. . HUD Richmond okays 24-unit, \$1.7 million complex for elderly in Blackstone and 84-unit, \$9.7 million assisted living complex in Richmond. . Danny Fore named President of Commonwealth Regional Council while William Strider of Central Shenandoah PDC and Mark Van de Warner of Rappahannock-Rapidan PDC step down as directors. . Virginia Apartment Management Association meets March 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> at Omni. . Governor Kaine awards \$1.5 million in CDBG funds to Chesapeake, Poquoson, Richmond and York County to rebuild from Isabel and Gaston. . USDA/Rural Development/Virginia names Byron Waters as Multi-Family Director. . Winchester opens new Office of Housing and Neighborhood Development. . Governor Kaine reappoints Kathleen Kilpatrick as Director of Department of Historic Resources.

## **CONGRATS**

Richmond Neighborhoods in Bloom win 2006 HUD Secretary's Opportunity & Empowerment Award. “HUD and the American Planning Association,” said HUD Secretary Jackson, “believe your program to be exemplary of the kinds of success that can be accomplished through neighborhood revitalization and rehabilitation.” San Jose, Dayton, Fort Worth, Baton Rouge and East Akron also have won.

## **CAPACI-TATE!**

DHCD has set April 28<sup>th</sup> as the deadline for non-profits to apply for Seed Fund Capacity Building Grants of up to \$25,000 funded by the Virginia General Assembly. It will sponsor “how to apply” workshops at VHDA in Richmond on March 15<sup>th</sup> and at the Higher Education Center in Roanoke on March 16<sup>th</sup>. To attend, call Ramona Chapman at (804) 371-7093 or email [OCCB-Office@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:OCCB-Office@dhcd.virginia.gov)

## **DON'T FORGET**

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and Virginia Economic Partnership host Brownfields Redevelopment Conference March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at Richmond Omni. For more, visit <http://www.virginiaallies.org/06Brownfield.asp>

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